

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02500 162154Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7424
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER POUCH

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SENV, CA
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE LOGGING IN AKAMINA KISHANINA VALLEY

1. ON MAY 12 EMBOFF RENEWED WITH ANNE PARK (USA DIVISION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS) THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE LOGGING OPERATIONS IN THE AKAMINA KISHANINA VALLEY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, ADJACENT TO U.S. GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. PARK SAID GOC WAS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO RESPOND TO U.S. "AIDE MEMOIRE" OF MARCH 1 ON THIS SUBJECT AS SUCH LOGGING WAS ONE OF THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES STILL BEFORE A MINISTERIAL LEVEL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE B.C. GOVERNMENT DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAND USE IN THE AREA. AS LONG AS TOPIC BEING STUDIED AT B.C. CABINET LEVEL, NO INFORMATION WAS BEING PROVIDED ANYONE BY B.C. GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING OTTAWA.

2. PARK SAID THAT SINCE A B.C. DECISION HAD YET TO BE TAKEN ON THE QUESTION OF LOGGING IN THE AKAMINA KISHANINA, THERE HAD BEEN TO DATE NO BASIS FOR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS EITHER WITHIN THE USUAL BILATERAL COOPERATION CONTEXT OR FOLLOWING OECD PRINCIPLES. THAT SITUATION MAY BE CHANGING. A COMMUNICATION WAS ENROUTE TO OTTAWA FROM B.C. WHICH MIGHT GIVE AN INDICATION OF
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WHAT B.C. GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DO. PARK CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF CONTENTS OF MESSAGE BUT EXPECTED IT WOULD INDICATE A WILLINGNESS OF THE B.C. GOVERNMENT TO BRIEF U.S. ON ANY LOGGING OPERATION WHICH MIGHT BE PLANNED. SHE EXPECTED THE SUBSTANCE OF B.C. COMMUNICATION TO BE PASSED TO STATE VIA THE CANADIAN EMBASSY DURING WEEK ENDING MAY 19.

3. ON SUBSTANCE OF A POSSIBLE LOGGING OPERATION IN THE AKAMINA KISHANINA VALLEY (SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED BY B.C. FORESTRY SERVICE SEPARATELY BUT CONCURRENTLY WITH B.C. LAND USE STUDY), PARK SAID IT WAS COMMON PRACTICE IN CANADA FOR LOGGING OPERATIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDERNESS AREAS. ONE OBJECTIVE IS TO CLEAR TREES IN AREAS(SUCH AS AKAMINA KISHANINA) WHICH HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY THE MOUNTAIN PINE BARK BEETLE. THIS REFLECTS A DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH FROM THE U.S. AS TO HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS INFESTATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ("THE U.S. APPROACH IS TO LET FIRES, ETC. CLEAR DEAD TREES. THE CANADIAN APPROACH IS TO HELP NATURE ALONG BY LOGGING TREES AS SOON AS RED TOPS APPEAR".) ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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